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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/608,169

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Thomas J. McIntyre

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EXAMINER

BOUSIKARIS, LEONIDAS

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2872

DATE MAILED: 12/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/608,169

Applicant(s)

MCINTYRE ET AL.

Examiner

Leo Boutsikaris

Art Unit

2872

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/26/03.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 14-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 14 is a method claim drawn to a process of manufacturing an integrated photonic circuit. The first step comprises etching a photonic resonator onto a substrate. The second step comprises patterning a sensor element into "said circuit". Besides the lack of antecedence basis in the above step, it is not clear where the patterning of the sensor element occurs; in other words it is not clear whether the sensor is patterned at the same cross section plane intersecting the substrate, as with the resonator, or away from the resonator. It is noted that Fig. 1 is only a sketchy depiction of the circuit and does not provide cross section information about the spatial relation between the various components. Similarly, the fourth step of the process refers to patterning a heating element onto "said circuit", which suffers from the same problems as the second step. Because of the above reasons, a meaningful prior art search cannot be undertaken.

It is also suggested that the word "comprising" should be inserted before "opening up holes" in line 12, for better clarity.

Claims 15-23 inherit the deficiencies of claim 14 from which they depend.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-11, 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Huber (US 5,159,601).

Regarding claims 1, 3, 6-7, Huber discloses a photonic circuit (Fig. 1) comprising a resonator in the form of grating 18, which is part of a tunable fiber laser, means for heating the resonator in the form of resistive heater 24, means for measuring a temperature of the grating in the form of thermistor 26, means for coupling the thermistor to the heater in the form of circuit 28, wherein the thermistor measures the temperature of the grating and transmits signals to the voltage source 30, in order to increase or decrease the amount of heat provided to the heater, so that the grating period is adjusted accordingly, for changing the wavelength of the light being passed through the grating and out of the laser cavity (line 43, col. 2 to line 10, col. 3).

Regarding claim 2, grating 18, heater 24 and thermistor 26 are embedded in substrate 22 (lines 52-58, col. 2).

Regarding claim 8, the temperature of the grating is sensed by a change in the change of the temperature (and hence the resistance) of the thermistor 26.

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Regarding claim 13, it is inherent that during the operation of the circuit of Fig. 1, each selected wavelength for the resonator corresponds to a respective temperature, the list of which temperatures and wavelengths constituting a lookup table.

Regarding claims 10-11, heater element 26, and thermistor 26 are in series, therefore having the same current flowing through them, the current being increased or decreased in response to the measurement of the resistance of the thermistor wire (via Ohm's law), and correspondingly, increasing or decreasing the temperature of the grating.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ueda (US 6,498,878).

Regarding claims 1, 3, 6-7, Ueda discloses a photonic circuit (Figs. 2-3) comprising a resonator in the form of arrayed waveguide grating 14, which is part of a WDM multiplexing/demultiplexing integrated optical circuit, means for heating the resonator in the form of thin film heater 22, means for measuring a temperature of the grating in the form of temperature detector 25, means for coupling the thermistor to the heater in the form of a feedback circuit (not shown), wherein the temperature detector measures the temperature of the arrayed grating and transmits signals to a current source, in order to increase or decrease the amount of heat provided to the heater, so that the difference between adjacent waveguides is adjusted accordingly, for changing the routes of wavelengths of the light being passed through the arrayed grating (line 23, col. 4 to line 41, col. 4).

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Regarding claim 4, the circuit is used for photonic switching, i.e., for switching wavelengths between the various input and output channels.

Claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Eggleton (US 6,438,277).

Regarding claims 1, 3, 6-7, Eggleton discloses a photonic circuit (Fig. 1) comprising a resonator in the form of a thermally sensitive optical element 11 which may be a grating, a resonance ring or a solid body resonance cavity, which is part of a waveguide circuit 10, means for heating the resonator in the form of heater 12, means for measuring a temperature of the resonator 11 in the form of temperature-dependent resistive element (not shown), means for coupling the temperature sensor to the heater in the form of a feedback circuit 14 wherein the temperature detector measures the temperature of the resonator and transmits signals to a current source, in order to increase or decrease the amount of heat provided to the heater, so that the temperature sensitive resonator changes its wavelength response (line 64, col. 2 to line 37, col. 3).

Regarding claims 8, 10-11, the change in the temperature is measured by measuring the resistance of wire 12, using a resistance detector 16, an ohmmeter, which in effect calculates the resistance by taking the values of a voltage and a current across the line (lines 5-11, col. 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5, 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huber (US 5,159,601) in view of Koizumi (US 5,696,543).

Huber discloses all the limitations of the above claims except for specifying that the metal wire of the temperature sensor is aluminum. Koizumi discloses a temperature sensor device wherein an aluminum wire is used as temperature sensor element 6 (Fig. 1, lines 44-56, col. 3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use an aluminum wire as a simple temperature sensor, as taught by Koizumi, since aluminum has very good thermal properties in terms of its thermal coefficient.

Claim 12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huber (US 5,159,601) in view of Schwindt (US 6,720,782).

Huber discloses all the limitations of the above claim except for specifying that during the measurement of the resistance of the wire, the value of voltage is taken by using a voltmeter connected to the wire via a Kelvin connection. Schwindt discloses a measurement probe used in conjunction with low-current and low-voltage measurements of wafers and other electronic test devices, wherein he teaches that a voltmeter may be connected to an interconnection point which comprises a Kelvin connection (lines 26-65, col. 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to connect the voltmeter to the wire via a Kelvin connection in the device of Huber, as taught by Schwindt, since Kelvin connections

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compensate for voltage losses caused by line resistances which would otherwise cause errors in low-voltage measurements (lines 52-54, col. 1 in Schwindt).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Leo Boutsikaris whose telephone number is 571-272-2308.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Leo Boutsikaris, Ph.D.
Primary Patent Examiner, AU 2872
December 7, 2004

